

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

JESUS IS KING



Be A Doer

Text: Matthew 7:24-29

This morning Jesus gives us the formula to be wise. If we are going to be wise we must first hear the Words of Jesus. In this closing passage in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches that doing is necessary of those who want to be wise.

I am going to say a lot about doing today, and I want to be sure you understand that Christianity is not made up of just the things we do or do not do. Please don't misunderstand this issue. It should be clear that Christianity is fundamentally a relationship with God, not a system of rules.

1. Wise or Foolish? - Matthew 7:24-27

In Jesus' illustration of the two builders, each house looked the same from the outside. The real foundation of our life is

usually hidden and is only proven in the storm, and we could say that the storms come from both heaven (**rain**) and earth (**floods**).

Jesus warns us that the foundations of our lives will be shaken at some point in our lives.

Time and the storms of life will prove the strength of your foundation, even when it is hidden. We may be surprised when we see who has truly built upon the good foundation.

Hearing God's Word isn't enough to provide a secure foundation. It is necessary that we are also *doers* of His Word.

2. Doing is Obedience

Biblical obedience is not just compliance. It is the submissive response to the Person of the Holy Spirit who has revealed the will of God to us through His Word.

It means saying yes to God as we say no to self.

It means denying self instead of indulging self.

It means pleasing God instead of pleasing self.

It means walking in the Spirit instead of grieving the Spirit.

It is the way of wisdom instead of the way of the fool.

While commands must be obeyed and feelings may need to be ignored, the issue is more basic... It is flesh vs Spirit.

We are either obeying our flesh and pleasing ourselves or obeying the Holy Spirit and pleasing God.

Most believers think that God's commands can be disobeyed if the circumstances are extreme enough. We consider our situation to be extreme so we are entitled to a little disobedience here and there.

The problem is that we are not used to living with absolutes. We have been conditioned to use relative judgement.

See James 1:22

"We will always please the one we love the most." If we love God the most, we will please Him. If we love ourselves the most we will please ourselves.

Paul emphasizes this kind of wholehearted obedience in ***Colossians 3:23-24***.

3. Doing is Endurance

Endurance is continued obedience to God even under pressure. It is the obedience of the heroes of the Faith in Hebrews 11, who continued doing right even though it cost many of them their lives.

Our Lord Himself demonstrated the sustained obedience that lies at the heart of endurance. **See Philippians 2:5-11**.

This passage says Jesus remained obedient "unto death, even the death of the cross." He said, "I'll die before I disobey My Father."

This kind of endurance that the Father honored is not the stubborn self-will of a person who refuses to give in because

he believes he is right.

It is absolute submission to the One who loved us most. It is the believer's refusal to betray the Father by looking out for himself.

This endurance is the fruit of a Christlike, renewed mind. It is more than having a head filled with Bible passages and scriptural principles. This endurance with its face towards God and its eye on eternity is Christ-likeness!

4. The Authority of Jesus - Matthew 7:28-29

Jesus spoke with natural authority, and the authority of God's Word.

Two things surprised them: the substance of his teaching, and the manner of it. They had never heard teaching like this before; the truths which he had given were new to them.

But their main astonishment was at his manner: there was a certainty, a power, a weight about it, like they had never seen before.

The people were astonished at His doctrine: Whenever God's Word is presented as it truly is, with its power, it will astonish people and set itself apart from the opinions of man.

When we really understand Jesus in this Sermon on the Mount, we should be **astonished** also. If we are not **astonished**, then we probably haven't really heard or understood what Jesus has said.



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What can we learn about the similarities of the wise and foolish builder?
2. Does the knowledge that your foundations will be shaken bother you? Why or why not?
3. Is there ever a situation in which you can disobey God's commands?
4. If we always please the one we love the most, what do you love he most? How can we love God the most?
5. How do you respond to the statement, "I'll die before I disobey my Father?"
6. How is doing the will of the Father the same a Christlikeness?
7. Why were the crowds who heard Jesus astonished?
8. What does it mean that Jesus had authority?
9. What stood out to you in this Sermon on the Mount?
10. What is the hardest thing for you to do?